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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. ALMA ALICIA TORRES-MELENA (2), Defendant.	Magistrate Case No. 08MJ2343 **STIPULATION OF FACT AND JOINT MOTION FOR RELEASE OF MATERIAL WITNESS(ES) AND ORDER THEREON** **(Pre-Indictment Fast-Track Program)**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED between the plaintiff, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by and through its counsel, Karen P. Hewitt, United States Attorney, and Carla J. Bressler, Assistant United States Attorney, and defendant ALMA ALICIA TORRES-MELENA, by and through and with the advice and consent of defense counsel, Siri Shetty, that:

1. Defendant agrees to execute this stipulation on or before the first preliminary hearing date and to participate in a full and complete inquiry by the Court into whether defendant knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered into it. Defendant agrees further to waive indictment and plead guilty to the pre-indictment information charging defendant with a non-mandatory minimum count of Bringing in Aliens Without Presentation and Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(iii) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

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2. Defendant acknowledges receipt of a plea agreement in this case and agrees to provide the signed, original plea agreement to the Government not later than five business days before the disposition date set by the Court.

3. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to the charge pursuant to the plea agreement on or before **September 1, 2008.**

4. The material witness, Arturo Ocegueda-Ramos, in this case:

a. Is an alien with no lawful right to enter or remain in the United States;

b. Entered or attempted to enter the United States illegally on or about July 29, 2008;

c. Was found in a vehicle in which defendant was a passenger at the Otay Mesa, California Port of Entry (POE) and that defendant knew or acted in reckless disregard of the fact that he was an alien with no lawful right to enter or remain in the United States;

d. Was paying $4,000 to others to be brought into the United States illegally and/or transported illegally to his destination therein; and,

e. May be released and remanded immediately to the Department of Homeland Security for return to his country of origin.

5. After the material witnesses are ordered released by the Court pursuant to this stipulation and joint motion, if defendant does not plead guilty to the charge set forth above, for any reason, or thereafter withdraws her guilty plea to that charge, defendant agrees that in any proceeding, including, but not limited to, motion hearings, trial, sentencing, appeal or collateral attack, that:

a. The stipulated facts set forth in paragraph 4 above shall be admitted as substantive evidence;

b. The United States may elicit hearsay testimony from arresting agents regarding any statements made by the material witness(es) provided in discovery, and such testimony shall be admitted as substantive evidence under Fed. R. Evid. 804(b)(3) as statements against interest of (an) unavailable witness(es); and,

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c. Understanding that under Crawford v. Washington, 124 S. Ct. 1354 (2004), "testimonial" hearsay statements are not admissible against a defendant unless defendant confronted and cross-examined the witness(es) who made the "testimonial" hearsay statements, defendant waives the right to confront and cross-examine the material witness(es) in this case.

6. By signing this stipulation and joint motion, defendant certifies that defendant has read it (or that it has been read to defendant in defendant's native language). Defendant certifies further that defendant has discussed the terms of this stipulation and joint motion with defense counsel and fully understands its meaning and effect.

Based on the foregoing, the parties jointly move the stipulation into evidence and for the immediate release and remand of the above-named material witness(es) to the Department of Homeland Security for return to his country of origin.

It is STIPULATED AND AGREED this date.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN P. HEWITT
United States Attorney

Dated: 8/14/08.

CARLA J. BRESSLER
Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: 8/5/08.

SIRI SHETTY
Defense Counsel for
ALMA ALICIA TORRES-MELENA

Dated: 8/5/08.

X ALMA ALICIA TORRES MELENA
ALMA ALICIA TORRES-MELENA
Defendant

ORDER

Upon joint application and motion of the parties, and for good cause shown,

THE STIPULATION is admitted into evidence, and,

IT IS ORDERED that the above-named material witness(es) be released and remanded forthwith to the Department of Homeland Security for return to his country of origin.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: 8/14/08.

United States Magistrate Judge